Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Controller for controlling a maneuverable control object, comprising a control lever designed to be manually maneuvered by an operator into various positions and a console in which the control lever is pivotable about at least two intersecting pivot axes and in which the console is provided with a corresponding number of clamps swivel-mounted about their respective swivel axis, which clamps are provided with slots through which the control lever extends and along which the lever can be led, individually-activated detention devices for restricting movement of the clamps, each clamp cooperates with a respective detention device for locking the associated clamp in at least one predefined detention position and limiting the movement of the control lever, wherein at least one of the detention devices is designed to lock the control lever in at least one of a plurality of end positions in one of the said slots in one of the said clamps, the control lever being maneuverable in the slot of the locked clamp, wherein each detention device comprises a detention arm, which at one end is swivel-mounted in the console and extends transversely to the respective clamp and is provided with at least one contact surface along its length which, in the detention position, engages transversely with a contact surface of the respective clamp, and wherein at another end, the detention device includes an activation member which draws the detention arm transversely into the detention position against the respective clamp.

2. (cancelled) Controller according to claim 1, wherein the detention devices can be activated individually.

3. (cancelled) Controller according to claim 1, wherein a detention device is designed to lock the control lever in at least one of a plurality of end positions in one of the said slots in one the said clamps, the control lever only being maneuverable in the slot of the locked clamp.

4. (previously presented) Controller according to claim 1, wherein the at least one detention device is designed to lock one of the said clamps in any one of a number of predefined positions, the control lever only being maneuverable in the slot of the locked clamp.

5. (previously presented) Controller according to claim 1, wherein the at least one detention device is designed to lock the control lever in an optional position between a pair of end positions in one of the said slots in one of the said clamps, the control lever only being maneuverable in the slot of the locked clamp.

6. (previously presented) Controller according to claim 1, wherein the detention devices are designed to lock the control lever in an optional position between a pair of end positions in both of the said slots, the control lever being locked in this position.

7. (cancelled) Controller according to claim 1, wherein each detention device comprises a detention arm, which at one end is swivel-mounted in the console and extends transversely to the respective clamp and is provided with at least one contact surface which, in the detention position, engages with a contact surface of the respective clamp.

8. (currently amended) Controller according to claim [7] 1, wherein each ~~detention arm, at its other end, is provided with~~ activation member includes an electromagnet, which, when activated, draws the detention arm transversely into the detention position.

9. (currently amended) Controller according to claim [7] 1, wherein each detention arm, at its other end, is provided with a controllable piston-cylinder unit, which, when activated, draws the detention arm into the detention position.

10. (currently amended) Controller according to claim [7] 1, wherein each ~~detention arm, at its other end, is provided with~~ activation member includes a controllable cam which, when activated, moves the detention arm transversely into the detention position.

11. (previously presented) Controller according to claim 1, wherein the detention devices are only activatable when the control lever is placed in certain predefined positions.

12. (previously presented) Controller according to claim 11, wherein the console is provided with a contactless transmitter, coupled to a control unit, for detecting the position of the control lever relative to the console.

13. (currently amended) Method for controlling a maneuverable control object, whereby an operator maneuvers a control lever into various positions relative to a console in which the control lever is pivotable about at least two intersecting pivot axes and in which the console is provided with a corresponding number of clamps swivel-mounted about their respective swivel axis, which clamps are provided with slots through which the control lever extends and along which the control lever can be led, individually-activated detention devices for restricting movement of the clamps, wherein each clamp can be locked in at least one predefined detention position by activation of a detention device for the respective associated clamp and can hence limit the movement of the control lever, and wherein each detention device comprises a detention arm, which is: i) swivel-mounted at one end in the console and extends transversely to the respective clamp; and ii) provided along its length with at least one contact surface which, in the detention

position, engages transversely with a contact surface of the respective clamp, and iii) provided with an electromagnet at another end which, when activated, draws the detention arm transversely into the detention position and against the clamp.

14. (cancelled) Controller according to claim 13, wherein the detention devices can be activated individually.

15. (currently amended) A controller, comprising:

a console; and a control lever pivotally mounted in the console about at least two intersecting pivot axis, the console including a pair of clamps swivel mounted about respective swivel axis, each clamp including an elongated slot through which the control lever extends and along which the control lever can be moved, and a detention device associated with each clamp and individually operable for locking each clamp in at least one predefined detent position to thereby limit the movement of the control lever, and wherein each detention device comprises a detention arm, which at one end is swivel-mounted in the console and extends transversely to the respective clamp and is provided with at least one contact surface along its length which, in the detention position, engages transversely with a contact surface of the respective clamp, and wherein each detention arm at its other end, is provided with activation means for moving the detention arm transversely into the detention position.

16. (cancelled) The controller as in claim 15, wherein each detention device comprises a detention arm, which at one end is swivel-mounted in the console and extends transversely to the respective clamp and is provided with at least one contact surface which, in the detention position, engages with a contact surface of the respective clamp.

17. (cancelled) The controller as in claim 16, wherein each detention arm, at its other end, is provided with means for moving the detention arm into the detention position.

18. (cancelled) The method as in claim 17, wherein each detention device comprises a detention arm, which is: i) swivel-mounted in the console and extends transversely to the respective clamp; and ii) provided with at least one contact surface which, in the detention position, engages with a contact surface of the respective clamp, and iii) provided with an electromagnet at another end which, when activated, draws the detention arm into the detention position and against the clamp.

19. (currently amended) The controller as in claim [16] 15, wherein ~~each detention arm, at another end, is provided with~~ the activation means comprises an electromagnet, which, when activated, draws the detention arm transversely into the detention position and against the clamp.